

Foster Care Review Board Utilization/Activity Report

For the Month of January 2011

Important Considerations: The number of reviews conducted each month may be impacted by the following:
 1) not filling two review specialist vacancies - one due to anticipated budget cuts in 2011 and one due to the 2009 special Legislative session budget cuts, 2) challenges created by the implementation of the child welfare reform, 3) holidays, and 4) staff vacations.

Current Month Statistics

	Reviews in Current Month	Goal for Current Month*	Percent of Monthly Goal Reviewed*	Reviews Year to Date	Goal for Year to Date*	Percent of YTD Review Goal Completed*
Children reviewed	371	370*	100%*	371	370*	100%

*The goal is based on current staffing levels. Since the economic downturn began the FCRB has lost 1 supervisor position, 3 support staff positions, and 5 review specialist positions, and recently has not filled 2 vacancies, thus the FCRB is unable to review all children. A plan is being developed to potentially conduct more reviews.

Additional information on children reviewed this month:

IV-E Children Reviewed	171 (46%)	Children age birth-five	133 (36%)
Non IV-E Children Reviewed	200 (54%)	Children age six to 18	240 (64%)

Point in Time Statistics

Total children in out-of-home care Feb. 28, 2011 4,428 children
 Children who had been in out-of-home care 6 months or longer 2,764 children

Subtotals of those in care 6 months or longer→	Reviewed in the last 6 months	1,852	(67%)
	Reviewed, but not in last 6 months	455	(17%)
	Not reviewed	457	(17%)

Facts regarding the 457 children not reviewed:

Age breakdown: 48 children are age 0-5, 54 children are age 6-12, 352 children are age 13-18

DHHS office/area of the children not reviewed:

0 are from Ainsworth	10 are from Grand Island	8 are from North Platte
1 is from Beatrice	8 are from Hastings	190 are from Omaha
5 are from Broken Bow	19 are from Kearney	52 are from Papillion*
1 is from Center, Nebraska	2 are from Lexington	0 are from Pender
4 are from Columbus	105 are from Lincoln	2 are from Pierce
8 are from Dakota City	7 are from McCook	0 are from Plattsmouth*
15 are from Fremont*	5 are from Nebraska City	0 is from Seward*
1 is from Gering	4 are from Norfolk	10 are from York*

*DHHS offices noted above that are closing or re-organizing – This reflects current DHHS offices – due to reorganization some offices are closing or are becoming a hub office, so numbers by office from month-to-month will vary.

IVE Status: 10 are IVE eligible (4 from Lincoln, 3 from North Platte, and 4 from Omaha)
 446 are not IVE eligible

Other Work to Ensure Children's Safety

Court attended. Staff attended court on 23 cases involving 50 children during January. The Board's recommendations were introduced in 25 cases where the recommendation had not been previously introduced into the record. In 23 of the cases the board's concerns were addressed.

Joint staffings with DHHS and/or lead agencies. Staff and/or supervisors staffed 28 individual children's cases involving serious issues with DHHS and/or Lead agencies in January.

Additional calls, emails, letters, meetings. During January the review specialists and/or their supervisor made 108 extra contacts to ensure that issues identified on a child's case were addressed. This consisted of additional calls, emails, letters, and/or meetings.

Facility or foster home visits. No foster home visits or facility tours were conducted in January.

Team meetings. 18 cases were brought to an 1184 team meeting in January. During January the Review Specialists attended 7 family group conference/team meetings to discuss case issues on behalf of children.

Special Requests Received

8 special requests were received on 12 children during January. Reasons for the requests for review or assistance included safety concerns, lack of parental contact, service delivery issues, school issues, and information requests.

Statistics Requests

During January there were two requests for statistics other than those in the annual report. One was for statistics on the average number of placement changes per child, the other for children in out-of-home care from southeast Nebraska. These requests were filled by the Data Coordinator. (Does not include persons using the website to obtain statistics)

Summary of Director's Meetings

Work with Senators: During January, the Executive Director met with Senator Campbell, Chair of Health and Human Services, and members of the Appropriations Committee regarding our budget.

Judicial Informational Meetings: The Executive Director attended the State of the Judiciary Address.

DHHS and Lead Agency Meetings. The Executive Director was on a conference call with the Central Service Area Administrator.

Other Meetings: The Director attended the Independent Agency Meeting, the State of the State Address, the Supreme Court's GAL subcommittee meeting, attended the staff video conference, and met with the management team.

Summary of Staff Collaborative Efforts

Through the Eyes Meetings: In January, 1 Supervisor and 1 Review Specialist attended 2 Through the Eyes of a Child meeting.

Child and Family Service Reviews: DHHS is conducting practice mini CFSR's to prepare for the Federal CFSR (federal audit). Staff will be involved in the training and actual reviews on a quarterly basis as time allows. E.g., The Review Specialist in the Central Service Area participated in January.

CQI Team Meetings: Supervisors and the Program Coordinator continued to meet with partners/stake holders, and lead agencies statewide and serve on CQI teams look at issues.

Administration and Support

The Data Coordinator compiled information on legislative bills affecting children in out-of-home care, assisted the Director in drafting testimony for legislative hearings, and continued to provide statistics and lists from the tracking system for staff and non-staff usage. Materials were prepared for the State Board meeting that was scheduled for February 2nd (which was later postponed due to weather) and mailed to State Board members.

The Administrative Coordinator and Administrative Staff continued to track children and their outcomes, process notifications and recommendations, and assure payroll and accounts payable were processed.

Trainings

No trainings were attended or facilitated in January.

Personnel

1 staff member had an anniversary date in January. 1 annual performance review was conducted in January.